



News Release

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
South Carolina Field Office



Cooperating with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture
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USDA TO MEASURE SOUTH CAROLINA VEGETABLE CHEMICAL USAGE

Athens, Georgia – Beginning October 3rd, interviewers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit nearly 50 of South Carolina vegetable growers in order to gather information for the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey.

The survey will collect information on pesticides and fertilizers used, acres treated and rates applied to watermelon crops. In addition to South Carolina, vegetable growers in 18 other states will also hear from NASS, as the agency collects comprehensive U.S. vegetable production practices information.

“Participation in the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey is vital to all participants in this key agricultural sector,” said Eddie Wells, South Carolina State Statistician. “Responses from vegetable growers will help ensure that chemicals critical to crop production remain available on the market.”

NASS is also asking questions about growers’ microbial food safety practices. The results of this survey will help inform food safety policies with accurate data on pesticide use and other pest management practices used by vegetable growers across the nation. Growers can use the data to compare their own practices with aggregated data from growers in their state and the nation.

Survey results will be published in NASS’s online database, *Quick Stats*, in July 2017. This database and all NASS reports are available on the agency’s web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Southern Regional Field Office at 1-800-253-4419.

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